

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Les White Named Interim City Manager** *Retired San José city executive to lead City Hall for at least a year*

**San José** ---- Former San José city manager Les White was picked by the city council today to return to the post he retired from eleven years ago and run the city's day-to-day operations until the council selects a long-term replacement for recently retired Del Borgsdorf next year.

"Les comes to us with outstanding experience and unique knowledge of San José that will be especially valuable for successfully managing our city organization during a challenging period of transition," said Mayor Ron Gonzales.

"I'm confident that with his strong leadership and management skill we will continue to make excellent progress to serve the people of our community without missing a beat."

White was city manager of San José from 1989 until his retirement in 1995, after serving as assistant city manager for five years. Prior to his experience in San José, he served as city manager and assistant city manager in Fullerton, and assistant city manager in Fresno.

Since White's retirement he has served in temporary management posts for several California cities, including interim city manager in Pittsburg and Seaside, interim town manager and parks and public works director in Los Gatos, and interim planning director in Palo Alto. He also served as the interim executive director of United Way of Silicon Valley and San José Symphony.

"I'm looking forward to returning to a city I love and the challenge of leading an excellent organization successfully through a time of change and uncertainty," said White. "I intend to work as hard as I can to leave this city in great shape for the next city manager to take over next year."

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Under the San José City Charter, the city manager is responsible the daily administration of the city, managing the city's 6500 employees, and delivering direct services to the public.

Borgsdorf, who was appointed as city manager by the city council in 1999, announced his retirement last month and plans to relocate to Sarasota, Florida. His last day in City Hall was January 20.

White currently lives in Aptos with his wife Marilyn and grandson Victor, but he plans to obtain interim housing in San José for the duration of his service here. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from California State University, Fresno, and a master's degree in government administration from University of Pennsylvania. His appointment is effective February 6.

The city council also accepted the mayor's recommendation to begin the recruitment process for the long-term appointment of a city manager this fall so that the next mayor and council can make their selection next spring. Under the charter, the mayor is responsible for nominating city manager candidates for the council's consideration.

"This position is the most critically important appointment the city council makes. It's essential that it is made by the mayor and councilmembers who will be working most closely with the next city manager in the coming years," said Gonzales.

"I believe the next mayor should lead the recruitment and selection process, but we can take steps now to streamline the council's decision making for next year to ensure that our city will maintain continuity of excellent leadership."

Gonzales will complete his second term as mayor in December 2006. San José voters will elect a new mayor in this year's elections.

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